1: Powdermaker E-5 (1929-1930) 1933 OM10 New Ireland OM10
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757 278 Some of the plants used medicinally in New Ireland grow in India, and are used there also in medical practice, and their constituents and function have been analysed.[1] When known, the comparison with India is indicated. Two principles appear to underlie the use of native medicine. [752] For external medicine, to cure inflammation and various swellings and sores, certain leaves are passed over the fire, and when hot pressed on the inflamed or swollen part. The principle of a hot covering for inflammation is a perfectly sound one. Internal medicine consists of chewing certain leaves supposed to have medicinal value and swallowing the juice from them. There is no knowledge of surgery nor [752] of prophylactics nor of disinfectants. Of the seventeen specimens collected (and these are the ones most in use), there are six which might have a possible medicinal value, as they have similar value in India. Of these six, three are for external use to cure inflammation, one is useful in diarrhoea, and two others are used as an abortifacient. The value of the others is extremely doubtful.

[847] Seven specimens were collected which were supposed to have an abortifacient function. One of these seven, *Rubus moluccanus*, has the same function in India. Four of them are used in India, but for different functions. Three are not known in India. Two of them have constituents which might make them useful as emmenagogues; the acanthaceous one contains a bitter alkaloid, and curcuma a volatile oil. But whether the leaves contain sufficient quantities of these to make them efficient is very much a matter of conjecture. It seems rather unlikely that seven plants, all with the function of an emmenagogue, should be growing wild in this one place, and it is probable that if I had gone thirty miles in either direction I might have collected seven completely different specimens with the supposedly same function.

Native medicine seems to be about equal in accuracy to

[1] Nadkarni, K. M., *The Indian Materia Medica*, Bombay, 1927.